

# NEWS RELEASE

---

## Alabama Department of Public Safety

courtesy • service • protection since 1935

### **Troopers Prepare for Memorial Day, Summer Traffic** ***Effort to Save Lives Includes Increased Enforcement, CIOT Campaign***

MONTGOMERY — The Memorial Day holiday traditionally marks the beginning of the warm-weather travel season, and Alabama state troopers are gearing up for the increased traffic. They plan to increase patrols statewide and take part in the national Click It or Ticket seat belt enforcement mobilization May 19-June 1.

According to Col. J. Christopher Murphy, Department of Public Safety director, troopers and local law enforcement agencies will be working together to conduct checkpoints that target compliance with the state's seat belt and child restraint laws.

"Do the right thing for yourself and your family, and buckle up," Murphy said. "Seat belts and child restraints should be the rule, not the exception, on every trip. Too many motorists in Alabama fail to buckle up, and the result is a tragic loss of life." He said two-thirds of those killed in trooper-reported traffic crashes this year were not using safety restraints. Last year during the 78-hour Memorial Day weekend, nine people were killed in traffic crashes in the state. At least two of the deaths were alcohol related, and six of the crash victims were not using safety restraints.

Murphy praised state troopers' ongoing work to prevent crashes and save lives and thanked Gov. Bob Riley and the Alabama Legislature for supporting Public Safety's traffic safety initiatives. "The number of trooper-reported traffic deaths in Alabama declined during 2007 – 62 fewer than in 2006 – and this positive trend is continuing," said Murphy. He said year-to-date reports indicate 61 fewer traffic deaths compared with the same period in 2007.

Alabama's seat belt law requires that all front-seat occupants, regardless of age, be restrained. The state's child restraint law requires the following size-appropriate restraint systems for children riding in front and back seats:

- ◆ Infant-only seats and convertible seats used in the rear-facing position for infants until at least 1 year of age or 20 pounds;
- ◆ Convertible seats in the forward position or forward-facing seats until the child is at least 5 years of age or 40 pounds;
- ◆ Booster seats until the child is 6 years of age;
- ◆ Seat belts until the child is 15 years of age.

--more--

*for more information contact:*

---

Public Information/Education • P.O. Box 1511 • Montgomery AL 36102-1511

(334) 242-4445 • <http://dps.alabama.gov/>

# NEWS RELEASE

---

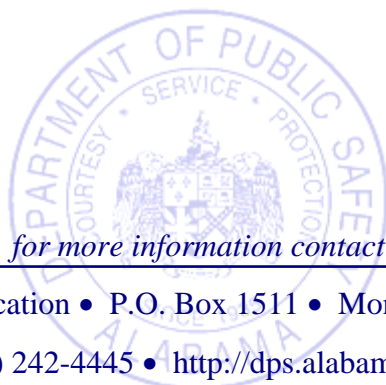
## Alabama Department of Public Safety

courtesy • service • protection since 1935

Murphy said all available troopers will be on duty throughout the holiday period, from 6 p.m. Friday, May 23, through midnight Monday, May 26. He said troopers would be watchful for all traffic violations, especially targeting those that commonly contribute to traffic crashes and fatalities: DUI, speeding, following too closely, and improper lane changes.

He said troopers also would be available to assist motorists and issued a reminder about Alabama's "move-over" law. The "move-over" law requires that vehicles on roads with four or more lanes move over one lane when passing an emergency vehicle that is stopped roadside with emergency lights activated. When the vehicle cannot safely move over, the law requires the driver to slow down and pass with caution.

5-19-08



---

Public Information/Education • P.O. Box 1511 • Montgomery AL 36102-1511

(334) 242-4445 • <http://dps.alabama.gov/>